

TOWN SEIZED BY SPENDING FEVER

Shoppers Fill Street and Cash Registers Tinkle a Hectic Tattoo.

BUYING AT HOME THIS YEAR

Thousands Move Constantly From Store to Store, Loaded Down With Trinkets.

Premontory rumblings of apostrophe war with Russia, and magazine editorials offering geometrical proof that the cost of living was never higher, are making scant impression on Richmond's buying public. With Christmas less than a week off the rush has begun in earnest and tens of thousands jostle each other in the favored shopping districts in one last glorious scramble to get in the smallest space of time. The spending fever has wrought a mighty democracy, which knows no distinction of age, sex, color or previous condition of servitude; everybody is happy, everybody is opulent, and the cash registers tinkle a hectic tattoo.

Nor is the buying confined to the Great White Way, Broad Street, with its mammoth department stores, holds the usual fair, a nation peculiar to the big, the showy and the dazzling, but hundreds of stores on Main and other retail streets are drawing liberally on many special clientele. Every store on each of the important cross streets, as well as the large shops in Main Street's retail section, feel the infusion of Christmas shoppers and are working with greatly augmented forces to take care of the holiday trade. Down on the east side, in the region of Seventeenth Street and the First Market, the Yule season is as much in evidence as in further uptown, where the traffic cops stand guard and direct the city's arteries.

Everybody Buys at Home. While no city of Richmond's population can be entirely free from the type of individual who habitually replenishes his wardrobe in the guided haberdasheries of Fifth Avenue, his tribe is this year noticeably weak. The fact is that every reasonable demand is amply met by local shops, and even those who can afford it feel no need of the larger cities.

During the past few years a cosmopolitan broadening-out process has worked wide changes in Richmond's retail establishments, until now there is hardly an article of wearing apparel or a fabric on the Rue de la Paix, Regent Street, or Fifth Avenue which cannot be duplicated on Broad and Main. Quick transportation, aided by almost instantaneous transmission of news and modes, have made the whole world akin, and the individual is rare indeed whose wants cannot be filled in the city. That the demand is being met is evidenced by the large number of men and women of fashion and wealth who are part of the buying throng which crowds the shopping district between noon and midnight. In spite of the "shop early" slogan, which began to appear as early as the first of this month, by far the greatest number are on the streets between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock. The wise ones who begin the round as early as 8:30 in the morning have everything in their favor, but the general public is slow in finding out and still prefers the after-lunch hours. To miss seeing the crowd which surges up and down the main retail thoroughfares at the height of the shopping hours is to miss one of the sights of Christmas week.

Much Like Fair Week. It is the winter edition of fair week, with the added spice of frosty weather. Peace on earth and good will to men is something besides the subject for Christmas morning sermons, and the whole gay mob is bent on proving it. The question isn't "to buy or not to buy," but what to buy. The window dresser and his seductive art has done his best, and behind miles of plate glass every imaginable thing of taste and beauty meets the eye of the shopper with the lure of a Lorch. Books for the reader, pictures for the art lover, bonbons for the sweet-toothed, candy for kids, toys for toddlers, furs for women, haberdashery for men, jewelry for everybody, gleam and glister and beckon from every shop window and diligently separate the willing multitude from its meagres.

But all is not spending and crowding and seeing in this unmitigated holiday picture. Life is never all black or all white, nearly always it is mottled gray. There are those in the crowd who are not buying because they have nothing with which to buy. They fol-

If you do not Buy a Piano or Player-Piano in the next four days you will lose the money saving opportunity of a lifetime—

BECAUSE:

The great combined Transfer and Christmas Sale ends December 23.

ALSO:

The discounts of 20 per cent. to 60 per cent. will not apply after that date.

THEREFORE:

Come to-day, make your purchase and make sure of this chance to save money.

The Corley Co.
SUCCESSORS CABLE PIANO CO.
213 E. Broad Street.

low the happy throng and gaze hungrily at the tempting displays, but they never go inside. They are part of the crowd in front of the shops, but not of that inside. Then there are others who forget that God loves a cheerful giver, only provided he pays for it, and try to get their Christmas gifts when nobody is looking. To discourage them the larger stores have stationed uniformed policemen at strategic points, and are maintaining a large force of plain clothes men scattered through all the departments. The man over there deeply interested in a rare edition of Omar Khayyam is a headquarters detective in disguise, and is watching out of the corner of his eye that none of Virginia's laws are infringed.

Always a Generous Crowd. A buying crowd is always a generous crowd, and the poor are not forgotten. On practically every corner in the shopping district stands the tripod with swinging kettle, presided over by a man or woman, who solicits small change for Christmas dinners for the city's "unglazed" everywhere, and the pot is kept boiling with an endless flow of pennies, nickels and dimes.

If the crowd is happy the men behind the cash registers are jubilant. "The greatest holiday business in the history of our store" is the war cry of them put it. "It was 9 o'clock this morning before our force could straighten the stock sufficiently for another day business," said one of the city's prominent jewelers in response to the question of the reporter. "The sale of jewelry is a good standard to use in gauging the general prosperity of a community, the jeweler's business being the first to feel the strain of our season," is the rejoinder. The sale of jewelry is a good standard to use in gauging the general prosperity of a community, the jeweler's business being the first to feel the strain of our season, is the rejoinder. The sale of jewelry is a good standard to use in gauging the general prosperity of a community, the jeweler's business being the first to feel the strain of our season, is the rejoinder.

Police Court Cases. Walter Laster, colored, charged with carrying a concealed weapon, was fined \$100 in Police Court yesterday morning and placed under \$100 security for twelve months. Stuart Smith, colored, charged with assaulting Sarah Draper with a bottle, was fined \$100 and placed under \$100 security for twelve months. George Hope, charged with interfering with Dr. Crowe, of the city ambulance corps, in the discharge of his duty, was dismissed at the request of the physician.

Boykins—Sherin. Norfolk, Va., December 19.—John R. Boykins, an actor from Goulden, Col., and Mrs. Pattie Sherin, an actress, whose father was Jerry T. Thomas, of Rosemary, N. C., were married in Suffolk last night at the city clerk's office by Rev. J. C. Robertson, of Oxford Methodist Church, with Attorney W. P. Lipscomb, as witness. The bridegroom told the court clerk it was the culmination of a romance whose details he would send by letter. The bride and bridegroom are not members of the same company.

POLLARD SOUNDS FINAL WARNING

Drain on City Treasury by Salary Grabbers Has Almost Reached Limit.

STILL ASKING FOR MORE

Increases, if Granted, Would Make Pay Roll 35 Per Cent. of City's Entire Income.

Attention of the Council Committee on Finance was most earnestly called by Chairman H. B. Pollard, Jr., last night to the continued inroads being made on the city treasury by wholesale salary increases, and by the perpetual process of creating additional positions. Ordinances carrying an annual increase in the city payroll of \$105,165.66 are now pending before the Committee on Finance. If granted the pay of the city employees, fixed by ordinance, now amounting to \$1,153,752.49 per annum, would then exceed 35 per cent. of the total annual revenue of the city, including the annual receipts from the sale of water and gas. Mr. Pollard warned the committee that each increase not only means an outlay at this time, but an annual expenditure, no salary having ever been reduced. Were the process much longer continued, he asserted, the fixed charges on the municipality for pay-rolls and interest on the city debt would eat up practically the entire revenue, leaving little or nothing for public improvements—nothing for the proposed new Administrative Board to spend. The income of the city for this year, he stated, counting all sources of revenue, would be approximately \$2,550,000, of which more than one-third had gone in salaries to the great army of city employees.

Increases Now Pending.

The following propositions for increases in pay of present employees are now pending before either the Committee on Finance or the Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform, all of them having earnest advocates who hope to see the allowance granted before the annual budget for 1912 is made up:

Gas Works payroll	\$ 2,817 75
Street cleaning assistant	300 00
Street cleaning employees	12,660 51
Market employees	115 00
Auditor's office employees	415 00
Street Department employees	5,250 00
Sewer repair foreman	150 00
Keeper St. John's Burying-ground	150 00
Public school teachers as recommended by School Board	52,163 35
Fire department, 10 per cent. increase	14,065 00
Police department, 10 per cent. increase	17,602 62

Total increase in payrolls of city asked in pending resolutions \$105,165 66

Maintain a Standstill Army. Chairman Pollard also presented to the committee the following statement prepared by Special Accountant Geo. S. Crenshaw, showing the present payroll of the city and the various causes for which the money is expended. The list does not include any expenses for maintenance of the departments, any construction work, materials or improvements—simply the annual pay from the city treasury to the army of office-holders which the city maintains. In presenting the report Mr. Pollard stated that this is the existing roll, without the increases now pending, and without the creation of new offices which have been asked for. It is the payroll of the city only, under existing conditions, will have to be provided in the annual budget for 1912, soon to be prepared, being more than one-third of the grand total of that annual appropriation ordinance.

Present Payroll.

Assessment of taxes	11,000 00
Collection of taxes	7,000 00
Collection of delinquent taxes	4,500 00
Sanitary improvement	2,840 00
Milk	1,000 00
Board of Health pay roll	25,100 00
Tuberculosis campaign	2,112 00
Building department	25,568 00
City Hall extra men	600 00
City Home	12,000 00
Oakwood Cemetery	4,550 00
Riverview Cemetery	3,520 00
Shoake Hill Cemetery	720 00
St. John's Burying Ground	720 00
Maury and Mt. Olivet Cemeteries	3,000 00
School Board	206,000 00

The Holiday Dinner-Social Functions, or Xmas Festivities Are Incomplete Without

Ice Cream, Ices

The Velvet Kind
PURE ICE CREAM

and Sherberts

Purity--Quality--Sanitation.

Bulk--Bricks--Individual Bricks--Assorted Flavors.

Out of Town Orders a Specialty---Quality and Delivery Guaranteed.

Bulk Cream \$1.25 a Gallon.

Brick Cream \$1.50 per Gallon.

F. O. B. RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

The Purity Ice Cream Corporation,
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

School Board, manual training and kindergarten	22,653 91
Police	174,026 25
City Clerk	600 00
Electric Department	2,160 00
Coroner	2,250 00
Electric Plant	15,100 00
Electric Plant distribution system	2,930 00
Fire Department	140,850 00
Fire alarm	7,000 00
Gas Works extensions	12,102 26
Gas Works	85,500 00
Grounds and parks	27,581 47
James River improvement	9,000 00
First Market	1,000 00
Second Market	2,500 00
Mechanics' Institute fund	7,500 00
Plumbers' examining board	100 00
Pay of judges	16,250 00
Salaries	53,952 50
Sewer inspectors	3,000 00
Engineer's pay roll	22,110 00
Hands and carts	55,500 00
Washington Ward survey	1,600 00
Bridges	106,000 00
Dog pound	2,152 00
Water Works construction	19,430 24
Water Works pay roll	19,207 50
Water Works pump house	20,408 71
Playgrounds	1,219 16
	\$1,153,752 49

Where It Goes. Mr. Pollard further showed that of this colossal outlay, the expenditures might be grouped as follows:

Pay roll for public safety, including Fire, Health and Police Departments, \$255,168.25.

For taxation and finance, all general saving, and pay of judges, \$94,012.50.

For public schools, including the Mechanics' Institute, \$236,158.81.

For the pay roll of the Gas, Water and Electric Works, \$178,457.22.

For public buildings, parks, markets, cemeteries and river improvement, \$80,382.97.

For street cleaning, \$105,152.

For street improvements, including sewers and the pay roll of the Engineer's department, \$87,970.

For care of the poor of the city, \$14,149.

CHARTERS ISSUED

Webb Clothing and Furniture Company (Inc.), Kenbridge, Va. J. A. Webb, president; J. E. Crute, first vice-president; R. S. Farris, second vice-president; S. L. Graham, Jr., secretary and treasurer—all of Kenbridge, Va. Capital: Maximum, \$15,000; minimum, \$5,000. Object: Furniture business and clothing business.

An amendment was issued to the charter of the Religious Herald Company, of Richmond, creating an additional preferred stock of \$5,000.

An amendment was issued to the charter of C. E. Davis Trucking Company (Inc.), of Henric, Va., increasing its maximum from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.

Foreign charter given certificate of authority to do business in Virginia: The Order of the Golden Seal, incorporated under the laws of New York, to do business of fraternal beneficiary association. Mutual company; no capital stock. The Commission of insurance appointed statutory agent, Richmond.

An amendment to the charter of Floyd Copper Company (Inc.), Roanoke, Va., decreasing its capital from \$2,500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Virginia Industrial Association (Inc.), Norfolk, Va. E. C. Hammie, president; J. H. Hamill, secretary; A. L. Stephenson, treasurer—all of Norfolk, Va. Capital: Maximum, \$500; minimum, \$10,000. Object: Real estate business.

Found Dead in Bed. Harrisonburg, Va., December 19.—John Miller, eighty-six years old, was found dead in bed yesterday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Carter Smith, near Christian, Rockingham county. He leaves five daughters and several sisters and brothers.

BAR ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN JUNE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Raleigh, N. C., December 19.—The executive committee of the North Carolina Bar Association in session here to-night decided to hold the 1912 session on June 25 to 27, the place to be decided upon later, with strong indications that Raleigh will be selected. On the committee are Colonel Harry Skinner, Hon. Francis D. Winston and A. W. McLean and A. B. Anderson, with C. W. Tillett and T. W. Davis.

the latter secretary of the association, meeting with them. There was also a meeting of the special committee of the Bar Association for the drafting of bills for redistricting the State, and for the revision of the rules of practice.

Organization was effected and the purpose declared to go into the work thoroughly, with indications that a "young Turk" element on the committee will bring forth a report for the June meeting that will stir abundant interest. On this committee are C. W. Tillett, Chairman, Colonel Harry Skinner, A. W. McLean, George Rountree, Francis Winston and T. W. Davis.

Farmer Suffers Heavy Loss. Charlottesville, Va., December 19.—The valuable barn belonging to James G. White, one of the most substan-

tial farmers of the Red Hill section, this county, was totally destroyed by fire last night, together with its contents, consisting of eight cows, seven horses and mules, a pair of oxen, 250 barrels of corn, a large quantity of fodder and shucks and many farming implements. The building was practically a new one. The loss is placed at between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The only insurance carried was \$1,500 in the Albemarle Mutual. There had been no fire in the building during the day.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

FLOWERS Are Beautiful Suggestive Xmas Gifts


Read over our list before buying your Christmas presents of Palms, Ferns and Potted Plants of every variety, including—

ACUBIAS, SOLANUMS, RHODODENDRONS, ASSORTED AZALEAS, CAMELIA JAPONICAS, BEGONIAS, POTTED POINSETTIAS, PRIMROSES, CYCLAMENS, CROTONS, DRACAENAS,	PANDANUS, NARCISSE and HYACINTHS. Fresh from our greenhouses every day: GARDENIAS, AMERICAN BEAUTIES, LILY OF THE VALLEY And ORCHIDS, CALIFORNIA VIOLETS, SINGLE And DOUBLE.
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Please place your orders as early as possible.

RATCLIFFE & TANNER
FLORISTS

25 West Broad Street Phone Madison 6081



CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

There are probably a number of presents you have not yet selected and are racking your brain to think of something appropriate. Our magnificent stock contains such a variety there is bound to be something that will "fill the bill"—let us suggest the following—there are thousands of others; something for every member of your family, for every friend, every acquaintance:

Brass Desk Sets.....\$5.50 to \$25.00	Desk Portfolios.....\$1.50 to \$7.50
Art and Craft Ware Novelties.....\$5.00 to \$25.00	Jewelry Cases.....75c to \$17.50
Brass Ink Stands.....\$2.50 to \$15.00	Desk Pads.....75c to \$5.00
Wood Craft Calendars.....10c to \$5.00	Stationery Novelties.....50c to \$5.00
Children's Pencils, assorted.....25c to \$1.00	Waste Baskets.....50c to \$3.50
	Brass Novelties.....25c to \$5.00
	Address Books.....25c to \$2.50

WATERMAN FOUNTAIN PENS
\$2.50 to \$35.00.
Ideal Gifts.

A complete assortment of Dennison's Holiday Specialties, Labels, Stickers, Cards, Bells, Garlands, Tape, Tissue Paper, Holly Wrapping, Crepe Paper, etc.

Virginia Stationery Co., Inc.
915 East Main Street. Three Doors Below Mutual Building.
SAM ISEMAN, President and General Manager.
Richmond Home of the Waterman Ideal Fountain Pen.
OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS